The KING and the FORESTER.

YOU ſubjects of England come liſten awhile.
Here is a new ditty will make you to ſmile.
It is of a king and a keeper alſo,
Who met in a foreſt ſome winters ago.

O early, O early, all in the morning,
King William roſe early all in the morning;
And a gown of grey ruſſet king William put on,
As tho' he had been ſome ſilly poor man.

The hounds were ready, prepar'd for the game,
No nobles attended of honour and fame.
But like a mean ſubject in homely array,
He to his own foreſt was taking his way.

O then beſpoke Mary, our moſt royal queen,
My gracious lord, where are you going?
He anſwerid, I count him to be no wiſe man,
That will tell his counſel unto a woman.

The queen with a modeſt behaviour reply'd,
I wiſh that kind Providence may be your guide,
To keep you from danger, my ſovereigh lord,
The which will the greateſt of bleſſings afford.

He went to the foreſt ſome pleaſure to 'ſpy,
Where the hounds run ſwift, the keeper drew nigh.
How dare you, bold fellow, how dare you come here?
Without the kings leave, to chace his fair deer.

Here are my three hounds, I will give 'em to you,
And likewiſe my hawks, as good as e'er flew,
Beſides I will give thee full forty ſhillings,
If thou wilt not betray me to William our king.

I am one of his ſubjects, I am one of his force,
And I am come hither for to run a courſe.
Get you gone, you bold fellow, you run no courſe here,
Without the leave of king William forbear.

All that I have proffer'd, I prithee now take,
And do thy endeavour my peace to make.
Beſides forty ſhillings, I will give thee a ring,
If thou'lt not betray me to Willam our king.

Your three hounds, I tell you, I never will take,
Nor yet your three hawks, your peace to make;
Nor will I be brib'd by your forty ſhillings.
But I will betray you to William our king.

As I am a keeper, I will not be unjuſt,
Nor for a gold ring will I forfeit my truſt;
I will bring you before him as ſure as a gun,
And there you ſhall anſwer for what you have done.

Thou art a bold fellow, the king he reply'd,
What! doſt thou not ſee the ſtar by my ſide?
This for ſt is mine, I would have you to know,
Then what is the reaſon you threaten me ſo?

With that the bold keeper he fell on his knees,
A trembling fear all his ſpirits did ſeize,
The picture of Death appear'd in his face,
He knew not at firſt that the king was in place.

O pardon, O pardon, my ſovereign liege,
For your royal pardon I beg and beſeech.
Alas! my poor heart in my breaſt is cold;
O let me not ſuffer for being ſo bold.

Get up, honeſt fellow, and ſhake off thy fears,
In thee there is nothing of folly appears;
If every one was as faithful as thee,
What a bleſſed prince would king William be.

Becauſe I'd enconrage ſuch fellows as you,
I'll make thee my ranger: If that will not do,
Thou ſhalt be a captain by ſea or by land,
And high in my favour thou ever ſhalt ſtand.

The keeper replied: My ſovereign lord,
Sure I am not worthy of ſuch a reward;
Yet neverthelcſs your true keeper I'll be,
Becauſe I am fearful to vsnture to ſea.

At which the king laugh'd till his ſides he did hold,
And threw him down fifty bright guineas in gold;
And bid him make haſte to Kenſington court,
Where of this jeſt he would make much ſport.

And when you come there, pray aſk for Long Jack,
Who wears pomegranates of gold on his back;
Likewiſe a green pheaſant upon his right ſleeve,
I warrant he's a true man, you may him believe,

He's one of my porters who ſtands at my gate,
To let in my nobles both early and late.
And therefore good fellow come up without fear,
I'll make thee my ranger of parks far and near.

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